

comprising:

a surgical needle,

a one-way suture having a series of exterior barbs providing for gripping of tissue in one direction only, the barbs permitting movement of the suture through tissue in the direction the needle is inserted, [and]

a detachable connection means securing the trailing end of the needle to a leading end of the suture, for releasing the needle from the suture when the needle pulls the suture with a prescribed amount of tension, and

a the needle [has] having near its trailing end metric markings as a visual reference indicating distance from the trailing end of the needle, whereby a surgeon can predetermine a depth at which the needle is released from the suture by reference to the markings.

#### REMARKS

In the telephone interview, the Examiner agreed that claim 29 would be allowable if presented in independent form, with the cancellation of claims 27 and 28. This amendment accomplishes this. It therefore seems the application is in condition for allowance with claims 1-26 and 29.